

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 27, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

GG

TO: Distribution

FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Symposium and Awards Gala, April 19-21, 2004

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) will sponsor the International Air & Space Symposium: Sharing A Common Vision, at the Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC on April 19-21, 2004. In conjunction with the Symposium, the AIAA will also host the 2004 Aerospace Spotlight Awards Gala, on April 21, 2004, at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, companion facility to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, located at the Washington Dulles International Airport. It has been determined to be in the best interests of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to attend these events in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

These events will be widely attended by approximately 600 persons, interested in aviation and aerospace issues. The AIAA is a nonprofit professional organization composed of representatives of industry, Government, educational institutions, and private individuals. The purpose of the AIAA is to advance the arts, sciences and technology of aeronautics and astronautics and to promote professionalism in those areas. At this year's Awards Gala, several NASA representatives will be honored as newly-elected and honorary fellows of the AIAA. The cost of the Awards Gala is approximately \$175 per person. In light of NASA's significant interest in aeronautics and astronautics, and the role of the AIAA in that area, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties. NASA employees may also accept invitations from the AIAA for accompanying spouses or guests.

Accordingly, NASA invitees may participate in the symposium events and gala without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul G. Pastorek".
Paul G. Pastorek